

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 185

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Louis Thompson upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Louis Thompson, who has devoted his life to the education and instruction of high school students and athletes; on March 19, 2005, Mr. Thompson will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson began teaching and coaching in Alabama in 1969 where he was Assistant Football coach until 1970; he moved to Dadeville High School and was Assistant Football Coach for two years until securing the Head Coach position in 1972; and

WHEREAS, moving to Tennessee in 1978, Mr. Thompson was Head Coach for the Lebanon High School football team in 1978; he then moved to Unicoi County High School and coached football from 1982-1988; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Mr. Thompson became Head Football Coach for Lincoln County High School, where he has won two TSSAA State Championships, 1990 and 1993; and

WHEREAS, Coach Thompson's overall record is 209-115, and he has let 16 teams to the playoffs; he has been named Region Coach of the Year 10 times and Tennessee State Coach of the Year twice, 1990 and 1993; Mr. Thompson was also named the *The Tennessean's*

Mid-State Coach of the Year in 1990 and was the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association's (TACA) Coach of the Year in 1993; and

WHEREAS, also excelling in educational administration, Louis Thompson was Athletic Director for Unicoi County High School between 1982 and 1989, and he has served Lincoln County High School as both Athletic Director and Assistant Principal from 1989 to the present; and

WHEREAS, Louis Thompson received the honor of being an Assistant Coach in the Tennessee/Kentucky All-State game in 1992, and he has coached two teams ranked by *USA Today* – the first ranked fourteenth in 1990, and the other ranked eighteenth in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson has coached six Mr. Football Award winners, and he received the TSSAA A. F. Bridges Sportsmanship Award for Coach of the Year in 1998-99; and

WHEREAS, Louis Thompson deftly served the high school football community as a member of the NFHS Football Rules Committee from 1990-1994 and President of TACA from 1991-1995; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his numerous high school coaching awards and merits, Louis Thompson played collegiate football for the University of Alabama and professional football for the New York Giants; he also served as an Assistant Coach for Austin-Peay University; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Coach Thompson's impact cannot be adequately measured by winning seasons alone; his positive impact on the lives of his students, athletes, fellow teachers, and administrators still resounds in the community today; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Thompson has been supported by his loving wife, Nancy and his wonderful children, Angie, Taylor, and Jay; and

WHEREAS, for the above and many others accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Louis Thompson has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Thompson is a man of true character and commitment, and he exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mentor the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic fields or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Louis Thompson in congratulating him
upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame,
honor and commend him for his substantial legacy as a teacher, coach, and administrator, and
offer our thanks for the dedication which he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.